

Serial No. 08/747,471

Amendment Under 37 CFR §116

Response dated May 9, 2006 to Final Rejection dated January 17, 2006

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the above-identified Final Rejection are respectfully requested.

Applicants note with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter as stated in Paragraph 9 of the Final Rejection, wherein it was stated that claims 7 and 24 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

This suggestion has been followed. With regard to claim 7, the features of this claim have been incorporated into claim 1 from which claim 7 directly depended, and claim 7 has accordingly been canceled. With regard to claim 24, this claim has been rewritten in independent form as new claim 53, and claim 24 has accordingly been canceled.

Concerning the remaining claims, claims 3-5, 13, 17-20, 22 and 31-52 have been canceled to advance the prosecution. Claim 6 has been amended to eliminate redundant language and for grammatical reasons. Claims 14, 16, 21, 23, 25 and 26 now depend from new claim 53.

With the foregoing changes to the claims, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now depend directly or indirectly from independent claims 1 and 53. The latter claims correspond to previously submitted dependent claims 7 and 24 which were indicated to be allowable. All of the other independent and their dependent claims have been canceled.

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Accordingly, it is most respectfully submitted that since all of the claims that are presented by this Amendment have been indicated to be allowable (claims 1, 2, 6, 8-12, 14-16, 21, 23, 25-30 and 53), the application is now in condition for allowance. Applicants therefore request entry of this Amendment and allowance of the application.

Alternatively, Applicants respectfully request entry of this Amendment for purposes of appeal as the issues on appeal will be substantially reduced with the claims as amended above.

Should the Examiner believe that a discussion with Applicants' representative would in any way be of assistance, she is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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